

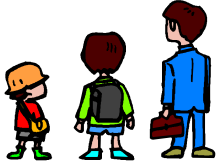


# THE DAILY WATCH



A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER PROVIDED BY

THE COMMUNITY LIAISON UNIT OF THE SEDGWICK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT



## DEAR PARENTS....

It won't be long and school will be starting. You may be nervous to send your kindergartner off to his or her first day, maybe you're anxious to get "the kids out of your hair" or maybe you're even sending one of your children off to finish his/her last year in high school. We all have one thing in common, we care about our children's safety...we want them to enjoy their years in school and to return safely to us each afternoon.

One way to ensure their safety is to go over a few, simple rules. Practice with your younger child how to safely wait for and board the school bus. Go over safe bicycling procedures if they'll be riding. And, don't forget your older child that may be driving. They are at particular risk and need your guidance.



## BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY TIPS



**RIDING THE BUS...**school bus transportation is safe. In fact, buses are safer than cars! Even

so, last year, approximately 26 students were killed and another 9,000 were injured in incidents involving school buses. More often than not, these deaths and injuries didn't occur in a crash, but as the pupils were entering and exiting the bus. Remember these safety tips:

- Have a safe place to wait for your bus, away from traffic and the street.
- Stay away from the bus until it comes to a complete stop and the driver signals you to enter.
- When being dropped off, exit the bus and walk ten giant steps away from the bus. Keep a safe distance between you and the bus. Also, remember that the bus driver can see you best when you are back away from the bus.
- Use the handrail to enter and exit the bus.
- Stay away from the bus until the driver gives his/her signal that it's okay to approach.
- Be aware of the street traffic around you. Drivers ARE required to follow certain rules of the road concerning school buses, however, not all do. Protect yourself and watch out!

**WALKING OR BIKING TO SCHOOL...**Even if you don't ride in a motor vehicle, you will have to protect yourself. Because of minimal supervision, your pedestrians face a wide variety of decisions making situations and dangers while walking to and from school. Here are a few basic safety tips to follow:

- Mind all traffic signals and/or the crossing guard – never cross the street against a light even if you don't see any traffic coming.
- Walk your bike through intersections.
- Walk with a buddy.
- Wear reflective material – it makes you more visible to street traffic.

## RIDING IN A CAR...

- You might have heard before that most traffic crashes occur close to home...they do!
- Safety belts are the best form of protection passengers have in the event of a crash. They can lower your risk of injury by 45%.
- You are four times more likely to be seriously injured or killed if ejected from the vehicle in a crash.
- Everyone needs to be buckled up properly. That means older kids in seat belts, younger kids in booster seats and little kids in child safety seats.

Information is provided by the National Safety Council.



## AVOID A CITATION!

The start of the school year is upon us and many motorists fail to stop when a school bus has

its flashing red lights on and the stop sign extended. We would like to remind everyone to slow down and pay attention to the schools buses you come in contact with.

The fines and costs for such an infraction in Sedgwick County are **\$300.00** fine plus **\$60.00** court costs for a grand total of **\$360.00**.

**8-1556. Overtaking and passing school bus; actuation of visual signals by driver of bus, when; required school bus markings.** (a) The driver of a vehicle meeting or overtaking from either direction any school bus stopped on the highway shall stop before reaching such school bus when there is in operation on the school bus the flashing red lights specified in subsection (a) of K.S.A. 8-1730, and amendments thereto, and the driver shall not proceed until such school bus resumes motion or the flashing red lights and the stop signal arm are no longer actuated.



### **CRIME PREVENTION METHODS FOR PERSONS WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES**

Society has changed drastically in the past few decades. Physically disabled citizens are facing new challenges as they struggle with independence in a merciless society. New legislature and government programs provide better protection from discrimination in the work place and public facilities, giving a more equal opportunity to those who have

been dealt a tough hand in life. People with physical disabilities are becoming more self-reliant, making higher wages and successfully competing for higher salaries in our materialistic world. These new advances in our society have given physically disabled citizens many equal opportunities, including the opportunity of falling victim to the criminal predators of our time.

Criminals prefer attacking those less able to defend themselves. A person with impaired vision, hearing, or mobility will appear vulnerable and less capable of protecting themselves in the eyes of a criminal. The attacker knows today's physically disabled citizens are likely to have money and valuables upon them, benefits of a more equal society. Constant awareness and methods of prevention are more important in today's society than ever before in regards to physically disabled people.

### **PERSONAL CRIME PREVENTION TIPS...**

- Know and avoid situations and locations that could invite crime, i.e., dark alleys, parking lots etc.
- Know the neighborhood where you live and work. Know the locations of police and fire stations, hospitals, restaurants or stores that are open and accessible.
- Stay alert and aware of your surroundings, whether on the street, in an office building or shopping mall, driving or waiting for public transportation.
- Decide what you plan to do in the event you are confronted, i.e., show confidence, scream, etc.
- Consider your options in these situations and practice

your responses so that you can recall them in a real situation.

- Be realistic about your limitations. Avoid places or situations that put you at risk.

### **HOME SECURITY TIPS...**

- Put good locks on all your exterior doors. Use single-cylinder dead bolt locks when at all possible. These locks are best utilized on a door without glass (windows) and allow quick exit in case of fire or emergency. It is best to have solid exterior doors without glass, preventing the criminal from reaching through a broken window and opening the lock. Install through-the-door viewers at a convenient height on exterior doors. Be sure such a viewer is at your eye level.
- Sliding glass doors are usually the easiest point of entry for the common criminal. Most brands can be forced open by prying and forcing. Special locks can be purchased to prevent this action. A less expensive way to secure a sliding door is by placing a short stick in the door track behind the door to prevent the door from being forced to slide open.
- Windows can be secured by drilling a downward sloping hole into the top of the sliding portion of the window and into the frame of the fixed or stationary part of the window. Then insert a nail or pin in the hole to prevent the window from being opened.
- Develop a positive relationship with your neighbors. Watchful neighbors can help protect you as well as themselves.
- If you have difficulty speaking, have a friend pre-record a message (giving your name, address, and type of disability) to use in the event of an emergency. Keep the tape recorder with this message in it near the phone.

- Never tell a stranger calling by telephone that you are alone or that you are disabled.
- Plan an avenue of escape from each room of your residence to use in case of an emergency or a break-in.
- Ask your local law enforcement agency to conduct a free home security survey and to help identify your individual needs.

Crime prevention is a choice. Don't become a victim to those who prey upon others. For more information or if you have questions, please call the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Department, Community Liaison Unit at (316)383-7184.



### **D.A.R.E BEGINS!** (Define, Assess, Respond, Evaluate)

It's the beginning of the first half and our D.A.R.E. team is lined up for the offensive. Six different schools make up the field for the Fall semester, consisting of; Chisholm Trail Elementary (5<sup>th</sup> grade), St. Mark's Elementary (5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade), St. Peters Elementary (5<sup>th</sup> grade), St. Joe Elementary (5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades), Cooper Elementary (5<sup>th</sup> grade) and Cheney Elementary (5<sup>th</sup> grade). Since the most effective weapon against drug abuse and violence is education, an aggressive, well-seasoned team is prepared to take on the challenge. Formed around Deputy Jeremy Jameson, Deputy Kim Kleinsorge, Deputy David Spears, and Deputy Thomas Delgado, this team will prove to be a powerful force in Sedgwick County Sheriff's war against drugs.



## **UNDERAGE DRINKING IN THE U.S.**

### **Teen facts:**

- More than five million high schoolers binge drink at least once a month.
- The gender gap in alcohol consumption that for generations separated girls and boys has disappeared among younger teens: male and female ninth graders are just as likely to drink (40 percent vs. 41 percent) and to binge drink (22 percent vs. 20 percent).
- 83 percent of adults who drink had their first drink of alcohol before age 21.
- Individuals who begin drinking before the age of 15 are four times more likely to become alcohol dependent than those who begin drinking at age 21.
- The prevalence of lifetime alcohol abuse is greatest for those who begin drinking at age 14.
- One third of sixth and ninth graders obtain alcohol from their own homes.
- Children cite other people's homes as the most common setting for drinking.
- Four out of every five (80%) students have consumed alcohol (more than a few sips) by the end of high school.
- Two-thirds of twelfth graders report having been drunk.



## **IMPAIRED DRIVING IN THE U.S.**

- Motor vehicle crashes remain the number one cause of death among youth ages 15 to 20. There were 6,131 youth motor vehicle deaths in 2000.

- In 2000, there were 2,339 alcohol-related fatalities among youth ages 15-20.
- It is estimated that more than 20,000 lives have been saved by minimum drinking age laws since 1975.
- The highest number of youth motor vehicle fatalities occurs in the summer. In 2000, there were 664 fatalities in July.
- Although there are more youth fatalities during the week, the percentage of alcohol related motor vehicle crashes is higher on the weekends. In 2000, 1,319 of 2,776 weekend fatalities were alcohol-related while 1,015 of 3,602 weekday fatalities were alcohol-related.

The source of this information is the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University.



If you have questions about any of the articles printed in the newsletter, please feel free to contact the Community Liaison Section at **(316) 383-7184**.

Sergeant Michael Stover  
Deputy Daniel Jones  
Deputy Jeremy Jameson  
Deputy Kim Kleinsorge  
Office Specialist Rhonda Ricker  
Reserve Deputy Daniel Cady

[www.sedgwickcounty.org/sheriff](http://www.sedgwickcounty.org/sheriff)



## **HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY LABOR DAY WEEKEND!**

